

REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on January 21, 2005.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 22, 25, 28, 29, 34, 36-38, 40, 46, 53, 54, and 58 are amended. Claims 1-61 remain pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 28 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 1 and 28 are amended to correct the informalities. These amendments do not narrow the claim.

Reservation to object to the Official Notice

The Office Action uses a single document to reject some of the claims of the present rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) based on reasons that some of the specific features in the claims, although not mentioned in the single document, are “known” in the art. Applicant assumes that the Examiner is taking Official Notice in rejecting these claims because the Office Action offers no documents to support the rejection of the specific features in the claims. However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends some of the rejected claims and reserves the option to object to the taking of Official Notice and, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2144.03, Applicant also reserves the option to traverse the taking of Official Notice.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-6, 22-24, 26, 34, 35, 38, 39, 46, 47, 54, and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Migliavacca (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,866).

Independent claims 1, 22, 34, 38, 46, and 54 are amended to include features that are at least similar to the features of the allowed claims. Applicant believes that claims 1, 22, 34, 38, 46, and 54, as amended, and their dependent claims are patentable over Migliavacca.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1-6, 22-24, 26, 34, 35, 38, 39, 46, 47, 54, and 55 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 10, 25, 29, 36, 37, 40, 53, and 58 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7, 10, 25, 29, 36, 37, 40, 53, and 58 are amended only to rewrite these claims in independent form. The amendments do not narrow the scope of these claims. Thus, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 8, 9, 11-21, 27, 30-33, 41-45, 48-52, 56, 57, and 59-61.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY KOELLING

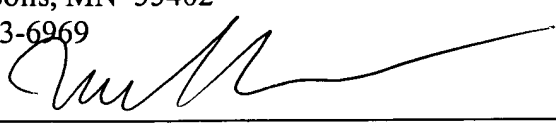
By his Representatives,

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Date

March 21, 2005

By


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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21 day of March, 2005.

Name

Tina Kohout

Signature

